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Annual Meeting of the American Colonization Society.

[PROCEEDINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 345.]

Mr. MERCER submitted the following preamble and resolutions:

“Whereas, to the affliction of the Christian world, the African Slave Trade, notwithstanding all the efforts, past and present, for its suppression, still exists and is conducted with aggravated cruelty, by the resources of one continent, to the dishonour of another, and to an extent little short of the desolation of a third; and it is now apparent, that this guilty traffic must continue without abatement, so long as there remains a flag to cover it from detection, a demand for its victims, and the African coast is open to its incursions: And whereas, its utter abolition, as essential to the security of African labour, and a safeguard of African Colonization, was early avowed to be one of the objects of the American Society for Colonizing the Free People of Colour of the United States; and has been, at all times since, steadily prosecuted, by its friends in the councils of the Union:

Be it therefore resolved, That a Committee be appointed to prepare, and to cause to be translated into the several languages of most current use, in Europe and America, a memorial to the Sovereign authority of every maritime nation on both Continents, earnestly soliciting the denunciation of the Slave Trade as piracy.

VOL. II.—No. 12.

And be it further resolved, That the memorials having been approved and attested, by the signature of the President of the Society, shall be forwarded, by his advice, to their respective destinations.

In introducing his resolution, Mr. Mercer said that, admonished by the lateness of the hour, to which the present meeting had been protracted, he should consume, but a few minutes, in recommending to the Society the resolution which he had the honour to submit. What he should say, would be prompted, rather by the desire to vindicate from seeming presumption, the means which the resolution devised for the attainment of its object, than the end itself, which had already received the countenance of the National Legislature, in an act, which denounced the African slave trade to be piracy—An example which had been promptly followed in Europe, by the nation most distinguished, in that quarter of the globe, for her zealous and persevering, though hitherto unavailing efforts to abolish this criminal traffic. It was known, that at the time when he had the honour of first calling the attention of the House of Representatives, to the remedy which the resolution proposes, for an evil, so obstinate and inveterate, as to have baffled all others, the entire adjudications of those complex courts of mixed commission established at so much international labour, by Great Britain, amounted to but nine in number: and at the seat of that tribunal, which overlooked the greatest mart, for slaves in the West Indies, the Havana, there had not then been a single condemnation.

The subsequent progress of these tribunals, he had not the means of tracing, but it was notorious, that since the period to which he had referred, the trade, in question, had been extended with circumstances of aggravated cruelty and atrocity. Of both its extent and horror, the African Institution afforded conclusive and mournful evidence. It presented a detailed list of the names of two hundred and eighteen vessels believed to be engaged in its prosecution in the year 1824, of which, sixty-eight were Spanish, sixty-three Brazilian, thirty-nine French, twenty Portuguese, two Dutch, one Swedish, and one, to the dishonour of our own flag, American. Twenty-four others have their names enrolled in this dark catalogue, without a designation of their origin. How many others escaped, in that year, the vigilance of enquiry and pursuit, must be the subject of conjecture, from the number known and designated. But if each of those whose existence, employment, and names are ascertained and reported, diligently prosecuted its gainful commerce, not fewer than one hundred and twenty thousand victims swelled the profits of their cupidity. Of these victims, probably not fewer than twenty thousand found a watery grave in the middle passage, or perished, under the diseases incident to its loathsome imprisonment, after their arrival at their destined market. More than twenty thousand reached, in that year, the single port of Rio Janeiro, in the dominions of his Imperial Majesty of Brazil, whose minister, on his recognition in this capital, as the representative of an independent nation, was instructed to inform our own Government, that his master

concurred in the views of the United States, respecting the slave trade, and would adopt the earliest practicable means for its abolition!

It is, therefore, more manifest than ever, that the mere exchange of the right of search, and a system of mixed tribunals, inefficient at all times, and subject to the derangements of war between their common sovereigns, are incompetent, taken separately, or together, to the end of greatly diminishing, much less of totally abolishing this execrable commerce.

It is only by making it the object of universal detection and punishment wherever its perpetrators can be arrested, by stamping upon it the seal of indelible infamy, and assuring its certain and heavy chastisement; by making it piracy by the consent of all nations, and investing it with all the consequences which the established law and usage of nations attach to this crime, that it can be hunted off the globe as other piracies are.

Both wit and argument indeed, have been pointed against this denomination of an offence, which was not only tolerated, but encouraged, at one period of modern Europe, by all maritime nations. But, at no very remote age war was every where construed to confer the right to reduce its prisoners, and their posterity, to perpetual slavery, without distinction of colour. This barbarous rigour dragged the Helot to Sparta, as well as the Ethiopian to Rome. If the mild spirit of Christianity; of that religion which teaches man to "do unto others as he would have them to do unto him," has loosened the hold of successful valour upon its European captives, does not the same law loosen the hands which force has put upon the African? If robbery on the high seas, and on its desolate and barbarous shores, be piracy, without the accompaniment of murder, shall not that robbery which fastens on the person of the proprietor, and all that he holds dear in life; which so often extinguishes life itself, by pestilence and slow consuming disease, be also piracy? Such, in the early ages of Greece, from whose language we derive this word, was the chief occupation of the sea-robber, who, like the modern Turk, infested the shores of the Mediterranean, to make captive, and consign to slavery, the peaceful labourers of its coasts and islands. The Mahometan corsair long practised, and still keeps up this warfare even in Europe; and thus, still makes, as formerly, occasional reprisals on her Southern border, for those cruel injuries which the European Christian trader inflicts on Western Africa. If the one deserve to be regarded as a pirate, does not the other equally so. If there be any inequality in their guilt, it is that the one does not trespass against the religion which his prophet taught him to propagate, not by love, but by the sword. Not so, the Christian, whose gospel is peace, gentleness, and mercy! But the concurrent statutes of Great Britain and America, have fixed upon this crime against humanity, its true denomination. It is now piracy, as regards the operation of the laws of each nation, upon its own subjects or citizens. In the English tongue, it is every where *piracy*. The object of the resolution is to extend this denomination of this offence, to the statutes and languages of all civilized maritime powers; that, incorporated in the common law of nations, it may meet with the punishment which it now escapes, under

cover of the dishonoured flags of so many States, who either connive at its practice, or withhold the only certain means of its detection and punishment.

The resolution of the House of Representatives, from which, the late negotiation between the United States and Great Britain on this subject sprung, arose from the desire of the popular branch of the National Legislature, to establish, by international agreement, that denomination of this offence, which the cotemporary legislation of Congress had so justly affixed to it. The abortive issue of that negotiation, and the subsequent rejection of a similar treaty with the Republic of Colombia, arising from an unfortunate disagreement between the Senate and the Executive, leave no hope of success, for the object of the proposed resolution, through the agency of that branch of our Government charged with our foreign relations. It is, therefore, only by a direct appeal to the humanity of other States, through the only channels open to the American Colonization Society, that the resolution which I have just read, said Mr. M., proposes to renew the suspended efforts of the United States, to extend the *principle* of their criminal code, to other nations, until, by universal acquiescence, it shall become the foundation of that universal law which all the tribunals of the civilized world are authorized to enforce. The security of the American Colony, the interesting report just read, proves to be, in some degree, dependent on the success of these efforts; and not its security only, but the fruition of any rational hope that can be indulged, of promoting African civilization, which obviously depends on the security of African labour.

While, from these considerations, the resolution submitted to the Society, it is hoped, will derive an apology for its mover, it becomes his duty to shew that its adoption may promote the end which it proposes. And here, it might seem to argue some presumption, to hope for success from the appeal of a private Society, to that humanity, which has been invoked, in vain, by the zealous efforts of the most powerful maritime State of the world; if, indeed, since the Congress of Vienna denounced this traffic, without concurring, however, in any measure for its immediate abolition, there had not been a favourable change in the circumstances of two of those States, who influenced the deliberations of that Congress; and if, the very absence of any political power in the American Society, to enforce its requests, did not remove one obstacle, at least, to their success, in the pride of those to whom they are addressed.

Portugal, now separated from Brazil, and Spain, severed from her Colonies on the American Continent, have scarcely a remaining interest opposed to the object of the resolution; and all the independent States of America, with the solitary exception of Brazil, have, by laws of greater or less severity, prohibited the African Slave Trade.

The singular inconsistency of France, in denouncing, and at the same time permitting this traffic to pass unpunished, before her eyes, is in part, to be explained, by her jealousy of her ancient rival, whose motives for a stipulated exchange of the right of search, she suspects. Having so recently witness-

ed a British army in her capital, she revolts at every seeming concession to British power. Even in France, however, whose abused flag covers so large a share of this iniquitous traffic, a public sentiment against it has arisen, and is rapidly spreading, which must, ere long, reach the heart of her legislative councils, and of her Sovereign. A gallant nation cannot patiently, see its standard used to protect the vilest criminals from merited punishment, and will more readily listen to the testimony of this revolting abuse of its honour, through the memorial of a humane Society, than the diplomatic correspondence of her powerful and ancient rival.

Mr. Mercer concluded, by an apology for having so far exceeded the compass to which, when he rose, he had designed to limit his remarks.

The following Committee was then appointed to carry its object into effect, viz. Gen. MERCER, Gen. JONES, and Dr. LAURIE.

On motion of Mr. SAMUEL BAYARD, Esq. of New-Jersey,

Resolved, That this Society, deeply impressed with the loss its cause has sustained by the deaths of the Rev. HORACE SESSIONS, the Rev. CALVIN HOLTON, and Mr. CHARLES L. FORCE, will cherish, with gratitude and affection, the memory of these devoted friends to Africa.

On motion of the Rev. J. N. CAMPBELL,

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be presented to RICHARD SMITH, Esq. Treasurer, for the very important services which he has long and gratuitously rendered to this Institution.

On motion of Doctor LAURIE, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the meeting be given to the Hon. RICHARD RUSH, for the very able manner in which he has presided during the present meeting.

A Committee was then appointed consisting of F. S. KEY, Esq. and Gen. W. JONES, who nominated the officers of the Society, for the ensuing year.

The meeting then adjourned.

Description of Bornou.

From Denham and Clapperton's Narrative.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 260.)

They seldom take more than from two or three wives at a time, even the rich, and divorce them as often as they please, by paying their dower. The poorer class are contented with one. The women are particularly cleanly, but not good-looking: they have

large mouths, very thick lips, and high foreheads. Their manner of dressing the hair is also less becoming than that of any other Negro nation I have seen: it is brought over the top of the head in three thick rolls; one large one in the centre, and two smaller on each side, just over the ears, joining in front on the forehead in a point, and plastered thickly with indigo and bees' wax. Behind the point it is wiry, very finely plaited, and turned up like a drake's tail. The *Scarin*, or tattoos, which are common to all Negro nations in these latitudes, and by which their country is instantly known, are here particularly unbecoming. The Bornouese have twenty cuts or lines on each side of the face, which are drawn from the corners of the mouth, towards the angles of the lower jaw and the cheek-bone; and it is quite distressing to witness the torture the poor little children undergo who are thus marked, enduring, not only the heat, but the attacks of millions of flies. They have also one cut on the forehead in the centre, six on each arm, six on each leg and thigh, four on each breast, and nine on each side, just above the hips. They are, however, the most humble of females, never approaching their husbands except on their knees, or speaking to any of the male sex, otherwise than with the head and face covered, and kneeling. Previous to marriage, there appears to be more jealousy than after.

Adultery is not common: the punishment is very severe, if caught in the fact, and secured on the spot; and this is the only evidence on which conviction is granted. The guilty couple are bound hand and foot, cast on the ground, and their brains dashed out by the club of the injured husband and his male relations.

Girls rarely marry until they are fourteen or fifteen; often not so young. The age of puberty does not arrive here at so early a period as in Barbary; females there not unfrequently becoming mothers at the age of twelve, and even eleven. In Bornou, such a circumstance is unknown: for a woman to have twins is extremely rare; and to make them believe that more were ever brought into the world at one time, in any country, would be difficult.

The domestic animals are dogs, sheep, goats, cows, and herds of oxen, beyond all calculation. The Shouaas on the banks of the Tchad have probably 20,000, near their different villages; while the shores of the great river Shary could furnish double

that number. They also breed multitudes of horses, with which they furnish the Soudan market, where this animal is very inferior.

The domestic fowl is common, and is the cheapest animal food that can be purchased: a dollar will purchase forty. They are small, but well flavoured.

The bees are so numerous, as in some places to obstruct the passage of travellers. The honey is but partially collected. That buzzing noisy insect, the locust, is also a frequent visiter. Clouds of them appear in the air; and the natives, by screams and various noises, endeavour to prevent their descending to the earth. In the district where they pitch, every particle of vegetation is quickly devoured. The natives eat them with avidity, both roasted and boiled, and formed into balls as a paste.

The game is abundant, and consists of antelopes, gazelles, hares, an animal about the size of a red deer, with annulated horns, called *koorigum*, partridges very large, small grouse, wild ducks, geese, snipes, and the ostrich, the flesh of which is much esteemed. Pelicans, spoonbills, the Balearic crane in great numbers, with a variety of other large birds of the crane species, are also found in the marshes. The woods abound with the Guinea fowl.

The wild animals are, the lion, which in the wet season approaches to the walls of the towns, panthers, and a species of tiger-cat, are in great numbers in the neighbourhood of Mandara, the leopard, the hyena, the jackal, the civet-cat, the fox, hosts of monkeys, black, grey, and brown, and the elephant, the latter so numerous as to be seen near the Tchad in herds of from fifty to four hundred. This noble animal they hunt, and kill for the sake of his flesh, as well as the ivory of his tusk. The buffalo, the flesh of which is a delicacy, has a high game flavour. The crocodile and the hippopotamus are also numerous; and the flesh of both is eaten. That of the crocodile is extremely fine: it has a green firm fat, resembling the turtle, and the callipee has the colour, firmness, and flavour of the finest veal. The giraffe is seen and killed by the buffalo hunters in the woods and marshy grounds near the Tchad. Reptiles are numerous; they consist of scorpions, centipedes, and disgusting large toads, serpents of several

kinds, and a snake said to be harmless, of the congo kind, sometimes measuring fourteen and sixteen feet in length.

The beasts of burden used by the inhabitants are the bullock and the ass. A very fine breed of the latter is found in the Mandara valleys. Strangers and chiefs, in the service of the sheikh or sultan, alone possess camels. The bullock is the bearer of all the grain and other articles to and from the markets. A small saddle of plaited rushes is laid on him, when sacks made of goat-skins, and filled with corn, are lashed on his broad and able back. A leather thong is passed through the cartilage of his nose, and serves as a bridle, while on the top of the load is mounted the owner, his wife, or his slave. Sometimes the daughter or the wife of a rich Shouaa will be mounted on her particular bullock, and precede the loaded animals; extravagantly adorned with amber, silver rings, coral, and all sorts of finery, her hair streaming with fat, a black rim of *kohol* at least an inch wide, round each of her eyes, and I may say, arrayed for conquest at the crowded market. Carpets or tobies are then spread on her clumsy palfrey: she sits *jambe deçà jambe delà*, and with considerable grace guides her animal by his nose. Notwithstanding the peacebleness of his nature, her vanity still enables her to torture him into something like caperings and curvetings.

The price of a good bullock is from three dollars to three dollars and a half.

• The towns generally are large, and well built; they have walls, thirty-five and forty feet in height, and nearly twenty feet in thickness. They have four entrances, with three gates to each, made of solid planks eight or ten inches thick, and fastened together with heavy clamps of iron. The houses consist of several court-yards, between four walls, with apartments leading out of them for slaves; then a passage, and an inner court, leading to the habitations of the different wives, who have each a square space to themselves, enclosed by walls, and a handsome thatched hut. From thence also you ascend a wide stair-case of five or six steps, leading to the apartments of the owner, which consist of two buildings like towers or turrets, with a terrace of communication between them, looking into the street, with a castellated window. The walls are made of reddish clay, as smooth as stucco, and the roofs most tastefully arched on the inside with

branches, and thatched on the out with a grass known in Barbary by the name of *lidthur*. The horns of the gazelle and antelope serve as a substitute for nails or pegs. These are fixed in different parts of the walls, and on them hang the quivers, bows, spears, and shields of the chief. A man of consequence will sometimes have four of these terraces and eight turrets, forming the faces of his mansion or domain, with all the apartments of his women, within the space below. Not only those *en activité* (as the French would say,) but those on the superannuated list, are allowed habitations. Horses and other animals are usually allowed an enclosure near one of the court-yards forming the entrance. Dwellings, however, of this description are not common.

[COMMUNICATION.]

South-western Coast of Africa.

In the beginning of the 15th century, the attention of modern Europe was, for the first time, turned towards Africa. The Portuguese, the Dutch, the French, the English, successively explored and took possession of various parts of the coast. Their object was not to convert or civilize Africa; they were in pursuit of the most detestable traffic that has ever disgraced and afflicted the human race. All other commodities but the one they traded in, are gradually consumed, and the commerce that supplies them forgotten; but the products of this are a blasting "boundless upas," that can never be eradicated. In the records of their voyages and travels, we look in vain for information of the country, and we only find it thinly scattered through volumes of crimes.

The account, therefore, which we are about to give, of the Western Coast of Africa, will necessarily be very incomplete. It may, however, have the effect, for which we intend it, of calling the attention of our readers and the public to that interesting region of the earth, and vindicating the American Colonization Society, in their attempt to people it with civilized and christian Africans.

When the Europeans arrived on the Western Coast, though the wonders which had intimidated them had disappeared, there was still left sufficient novelty in the people, the products and

features of the country. The inhabitants, they found, were black and totally uncivilized. But they were mild and cheerful in their disposition, and hospitable in their manners. Some of them lived in villages, others wandered about without fixed habitations. Their houses or huts were built of reeds and mud; and their only manufactures were mats made of osiers, charms, or greegrees,* and a sort of cloth from the bark of trees. The forms of government under which they lived, were the simplest imaginable: the king or queen was absolute, and all the rest were slaves. * This, at least, was the case in the larger tribes or nations; into which they were innumerable subdivided. But some of these little communities did not exceed a hundred citizens; and the sovereign power, in them and many of the others, resembled the dominion of a father in his family. It was restrained, besides, by a rough species of republican government; and no man or woman could be condemned, but upon sentence by a "palaver," or public assembly of the nation. Among a people so simple and with so few laws, and whose customs were generally but the impulse of natural equity, crimes were few, and punishment unfrequent. Death was never inflicted but for murder. For other offences, fines were imposed, or the criminal sold into slavery. There were but two classes of society, the chiefs and the people. Hereditary rank was almost unknown; and honour was attached to office, not to persons. The religion which they professed, (if any thing so incoherent, preposterous and barbarous can be called religion,) was, in some tribes, idolatry, in others, idolatry with a slight intermixture of Mahometan observances. They believed in the active and habitual interference of the devil in the affairs of men; placed implicit reliance on their wooden idols, or "fetiches," and their charms, or "greegrees," which they carried continually about them; attributed to these charms and idols various and varying degrees and kinds of power; and were almost entirely under the controul of sorcerers and wizards. Indeed, superstition was their government. They seemed to be actuated by a superior sort of instinct only. Like all other sava-

* The "greegrees," or as it is sometimes written "grisgris," are generally composed of two small and nearly circular pieces of leather, sowed together, and containing between them the name of God, written in Arabic, on parchment.

ges, they displayed considerable talents, however, for begging, and when that failed, for stealing.

As you advance into the interior, you meet with more regular and consolidated governments, more extensive and powerful states, enjoying a comparative civilization. At first the Europeans saw and traded only with those they found living near the coast; but when they penetrated up the rivers, and the report of their arrival spread into the interior of the country, large bands of natives, from a greater distance, came down to barter with them. They brought gold, ostrich feathers, ambergris and precious gems, which they exchanged for toys, garments, liquors, and tobacco. Another article of commerce which they offered, or were induced to offer, were slaves. If the Portuguese and Dutch had listened to humanity and conscience, and the precepts of that Bible which they affected to be anxious to extend, they would have discouraged this traffic at once, and might perhaps have prevented it. But they were actuated only by an unprincipled thirst of gain. America, which had recently been discovered, was in want of cultivators; its white inhabitants had not yet sufficiently increased, or were too indolent to work: to procure labourers, these poor savages must be encouraged in ferocious habits. It was thus reserved for civilized men and christians, to promote the slave-trade: and the Portuguese, who set the first example then, still scandalize repenting Europe by perseverance in the crime.

The parts of Africa in which we are most concerned at present, and which should interest us most, are the Western and South-western Coasts; because they are the outlets and depositories of the slave-trade, and the most approved routes for penetrating into the interior. It is to them principally, that we shall confine our remarks, with now and then such reference to other parts, as may be necessary for explanation.

Along the coast (to the south of where the great desert of Sahara comes down to drink at the ocean,) and for a considerable distance into the interior, the country is level and pierced by several large and navigable rivers, and many smaller streams. The soil is rich, the products various, the climate not so unwholesome as has been represented. It is peopled by tribes of *negroes*, more or less distinct in customs, language, features and condition. As

you recede from the sea, the surface becomes more broken and elevated, till it swells at last into mountains of vast extent and height, which divide the waters of Central Africa from those that fall directly into the Atlantic to the west. In this section of the continent, all the features of African geography seem to be on a scale of grandeur, that would make it a fit residence for the greatest nations: pity it should be left to savages!

Among the hills which we have mentioned, rise the streams and navigable rivers that drain and irrigate the plain below, and wander to the ocean through prairies of the most luxuriant fertility. The Gambia is navigable for sloops 600 miles, until it is broken by the cataract of Barraconda. The Senegal is a river of equal magnitude. The Congo is much superior to either. Indeed, the vast volume of water which it rolls into the ocean, and which is felt for twenty miles at sea, justifies the belief that it has its source far beyond the mountains, or in more distant ones. Many persons have supposed that it is the mysterious Niger, discharging itself after a varying course, through the centre of the continent, many thousand miles. Whether that idea be correct or not, the Congo will undoubtedly be found to be one of the largest rivers in the world. The expectation that all doubt upon this subject would be removed by the discoveries of Denham and Clapperton, has not been realized. The long-sought Niger has eluded their search. It was our opinion that the Niger and Congo were identical, but separated by a *lake*. Such a lake in Central Africa had been heard of; the Niger had been seen far to the west of the lake, flowing eastwardly; and to us it seemed natural to suppose, that this great lake or chain of lakes must have an outlet, proportioned to themselves in size, and send their waters to the general reservoir, the ocean, along the bed of some great river, as do our Erie and Ontario. As no such stream was known to fall into the Persian gulf or Indian ocean, it was highly probable, we thought, that the majestic Congo was the one in question. The Niger, properly so called, would then, according to our hypothesis, have taken its rise on the eastern declivity of the Kong mountains, which pour the waters of the Senegal and Gambia down their western sides, and (as Park had ascertained it does) flow from west to east, until it emptied, swollen by tributary streams, into the great lake Tchad, in Central Africa. From the

eastern or south-eastern, or perhaps southern extremity of this lake, we supposed the accumulated and surplus waters to be discharged along the bed of the Congo. Thus the Niger would bear the same relation to the Congo, as the Niagara, (for instance) to the St. Lawrence. But we have been obliged to abandon our hypothesis: for it is ascertained that the Kong mountains, after a long course to the south-east, turn off towards the south, and recede into the continent, interposing themselves between the Congo and the lake; that the Shary, a river which is either the Niger or rises in the Mandara (a continuation apparently of the Kong) mountains, flows northward into the lake, from the south; and that the Tchad has no apparent outlet.

Whether the waters of the Niger, ever reach the sea; or are absorbed by the thirsty sands of Central Africa, is of no small importance to the western and south-western coast. Such a communication with the vast regions of the interior, would promote the extension of christian commerce and civilized society, and increase the power and wealth of nations inhabiting, or destined to inhabit its course, as much as the Mississippi and Missouri contributed to the peopling and cultivation of our western territory, and the rapid growth of the states that line their banks. In every other respect, the part of Africa which we are now describing, is as capable of being covered with great nations, as were the western and southern members of this confederacy. It enjoys a fertility not inferior to theirs, and affords a greater variety of valuable products. The climate too, though essentially different, is at least as salubrious. The mortality that prevailed among the first emigrants to Liberia, was owing altogether to other causes. They arrived during the worst season of the year, and remained exposed to all its inclemency, without shelter; and the matter of surprise should be, that any of them escaped destruction. A much worse result attended the early attempts to settle America. In Virginia, and even as far north as Plymouth in New England, all the settlers were repeatedly swept away by the savages and malignant diseases; and the idea of persevering in colonization was, for a considerable time, abandoned and forgotten. It began to be considered as a visionary and impracticable scheme, and the climate as utterly uncongenial to the European constitution. It is therefore neither surprising nor discouraging, that similar misfor-

tunes should have followed the first attempts to settle Africa. They are incident to all such undertakings, in every quarter of the globe. A want of experience will lead to mistakes, mistakes will lead to exposure, and exposure prove fatal. In removing from one climate to another, we are apt to forget to make corresponding changes in our habits; which is just as unreasonable as it would be, to follow the same mode of life through all the varying seasons of any climate. That of Europe is much more like the American, than either like the African. It is sometimes imagined, that because the latter is entirely different from the two former, it is therefore not so good; but this we think an erroneous conclusion, and are inclined to believe that the latter is the better climate. All that is necessary is, to conform to it, and not to live in Africa as if we were still in America or Europe. The climate is by no means so changeable as ours; and that already is a great advantage. It is divided into certain periods so regularly, that their approach is always known. There are no sudden transitions from heat to cold; unless it be among the mountains, or (by the rarefaction and condensation of the air) in the desert. There are certain seasons during which you may count upon an uninterrupted serenity of weather; and then is the time for agricultural and commercial operations. There are other seasons again, at which you must expect and provide against tempestuous and rainy weather. Is not this distribution wiser, than if you were liable at every moment to be drenched with rain, or surprised by a tornado? Upon mature reflection it will to every one appear doubtful, whether this division of the seasons is not preferable to our's. The rains set in about the middle of May or June, and continue till October. It is then that the crops are sown.

In that part of Africa in which our Colony is situated, the days are short and the nights long, because it is within the tropics. The heat is therefore not so great as in many parts of North America, which are inhabited by a hardy race of people. The long dry season is not a *drought*. It does not prevent the growth of any thing; for although it recurs each year, and is the natural course of things, the land teems with all the productions of the earth. The tropical fruits grow there in wildness and profusion. Coffee of the finest quality comes spontaneously in the woods. Rice, surpassing that of our southern states, is the common food

of the natives. Wheat, barley, and Indian corn arrive at the same perfection as with us. So do all the succulent roots that we possess, and many other useful and delicious vegetables "that we know not of." The soil is admirably adapted to indigo, cotton, and tobacco. Ivory, dye-woods, precious gems, ambergris, ostrich feathers, and the skins of wild beasts, are exported in great quantities from the coast: and, before the discovery of America, the mines of Africa supplied all Europe with gold and silver.

The climate is congenial too to its domestic animals, so necessary to civilized man. The horse, though little used by the ignorant negroes on the coast, is almost a part of the wandering Moor of the desert, is trained to sport and war by the nations of Central Africa, and attains that excellence of form and character which we call "blooded." The sheep of Africa are celebrated; and the cow is equal, in all her qualities, to her race in other continents. The patient ox, though he draws no wagons there, carries his burthens in Africa as well as here. The asses are much finer than our's, and are driven in immense herds, like the lamas of South America, loaded with bales of merchandise. Then comes the camel, the most serviceable of all the mute servants of man, to whom, for certain kinds of labour, we have nothing to compare.

Such is the south-western coast of Africa. How many hidden beauties will be found, when she is more thoroughly explored! Profusely rich in all the vegetable and mineral kingdoms, why may she not bear fruits of *human* excellence, and from having been the seat and victim of every crime, become a wide and fertile field for the cultivation of every virtue?

In its inhabitants, Africa is as various and peculiar, as in its other productions. It is peopled by many millions of human beings, differing vastly from each other in colour, forms of government, occupations and religion. Some of them are gathered into small tribes, ruled by petty chiefs; others into large and powerful nations. Unbounded liberty is enjoyed by some, and others groan in the abjectest servitude, or live beneath an easy despotism. Many tribes have no fixed residence, but wander about with their flocks in search of pasture, or their arms in search of prey: others have permanent abodes, large and commercial cities, and enjoy a comparative civilization. In colour they are not less diversified: from the deepest black, to every

brighter hue, except perhaps the ruddy fairness of an European complexion. Whiteness, when first beheld, is shocking to them, and they attribute it to disease. A charitable old negro woman, who afforded Park a meal and lodging, on the banks of the Niger, could not refrain, even in her kindness, from exclaiming: "God preserve us from the devil!" And it was a common subject of regret among the negro girls in Bornou, that Denham and Clapperton were "so white."

In Central Africa all these travellers found populous and highly cultivated countries, in which were large cities of 30,000 and 50,000 inhabitants. To these marts resort all the people of the neighbourhood, and caravans and single merchants from the most distant regions. You may there see the Negro of all varieties; from the thick lips, flat noses, receding foreheads and frizzled locks of the western coast, to the equally black but straight and prominent features, and long lank hair of the interior and the east. You see him mingling with the dusky Moor, the olive coloured Arab, and the tawney Egyptian, each in his national or fanciful costume.

"A thousand tongues prefer strange orisons on high."

The numbers of a thousand sects, blent and tintured with each other, meet in friendly converse. Paganism is the prevalent form of worship; and here and there some faint traces of christianity appear:—but the predominant belief, or practise, is the religion of the Prophet. The faithful experienced no difficulty in the conversion of Africa. Its simple and docile inhabitants willingly adopted all that was inculcated, by Saracen, Jew or christian, and without abandoning their ancient rites and notions, incorporated all the new.

But the question is, whether a nation of free blacks can be established on the western coast of this great continent. The climate has been urged as an insurmountable obstacle:—so it was, in the case of America. Liberia has been desolated by sickness:—so were Plymouth and the settlements in Virginia. We are not reduced, however, to reasoning from analogy; we have facts directly applicable to our position. Colonies *have* been established and have flourished, on the coast of Africa. Sierra Leone, after many sad reverses in its infancy, is now a thriving territory, with 20,000 inhabitants. It was founded under the most unfavourable circumstances; for those who first composed it,

came from a very northern latitude,* or from the streets of London, and were mingled with whites, without selection, the good with the demoralized. Bad habits did more for their destruction than the climate. Sierra Leone has recovered now from this capital mistake, and in prosperity and usefulness, forgets the lowness and effaces the stain of her birth.

The Portuguese too, and the French, were eminently successful in making settlements on the coast, and far up the rivers in the interior. Although the natives were uncivilized, they could scarcely be called savages, for they were a kind, hospitable and harmless people; and their visitors found it easy to obtain a foothold among them. Some of the tribes in the interior, however, were less tractable, and more warlike and ferocious. Their customs were not so simple and unprejudiced, but had a strong tincture of mahometanism. By flattery, the skilful use of superior attainments, the possession of desirable objects of traffic, by prudence and well-timed violence, the Portuguese gradually spread themselves and their establishments over an immense extent of country, for many hundred miles into the interior. Protected by their arms and reputation, missionaries preached the gospel throughout the country with wonderful success, as they relate. Miracles were wrought, and the natives came in thousands to be baptized. As long as the missionaries confined themselves to preaching and baptizing, they seem to have found the natives docile enough; but when they came to abolishing polygamy, which universally prevailed, overthrowing the idols and their temples, and deposing monarchs who would not be converted, they met with the fiercest and most determined opposition, and were compelled by a general revolt to fly for refuge to their forts. The Portuguese at length became so odious from their tyranny and vices, that they were driven, gradually, from the continent, with the assistance of their enemies in Europe: and while the ruins of their towns and military posts, a few words of their language imbedded in the native dialects, and the slave-trade, are now the only vestiges of their once flourishing and extensive dominion, they demonstrate the practicability of civilized colonies on the coast of Africa. It was not the climate that expelled the Portu-

*Nova Scotia. They had been carried away from the United States during the revolutionary war.

guese; it was their fierce bigotry, their brutal persecution of a harmless race. How could the slave-trade and the gospel be preached with the self-same breath? The crucifix remains among the natives: it is one of their "fetiches!"

A singular superstition of the Portuguese, was one of the strongest incentives to discoveries and settlements. They believed that there was a christian kingdom, some where in Africa, governed by a christian king, whose name was * Prester John. To find this nation, which they thought had been so long mislaid, and lost to the christian world, was one of the great objects of all their expeditions; and every navigator on leaving Portugal, was furnished by his sovereign with particular injunctions to look for his august cousin, Prester John. They were therefore very careful to make enquiries of the natives, wherever they went; and learning that far in the interior were the great cities of Timbuctoo and Jenne, they sent ambassadors to the emperors. Unfortunately, the particulars of these interesting journies, which in later times we have so often vainly attempted to repeat, were not recorded, or are mouldering in the jealous archives of Portugal. All that we have learnt from them is, that they knew of a great river (the Niger,) near those cities; that the inhabitants were of a lighter colour and strict Mahomedans (the Moors;) and that beyond them, they were informed, was a land (Abyssinia,) where the people professed the same religion as themselves. This relation renewed their hopes and quickened their endeavours; and they were finally gratified, after doubling the Cape of Good Hope, with a sight of Abyssinia, and finding there a few distorted features and faint traces of christianity.

On the eastern coast of Africa, and up the rivers that fall into the Persian Gulf and Mozambique channel, there are Portuguese cities of considerable size, where the language is still spoken, though corruptly. Their streets, houses and churches, give them the air of European cities. They are the great marts of the slave-trade, and oppose, for fear of interruption, the most serious obstacles to every attempt to penetrate far into the country.

If, for the fiendish purpose of trading in human tears and flesh,

*Prester John, i. e. Presbiter John, i. e. Priest John; for they supposed him to be a prelate as well as king;—a christian Kalif;—a sort of Pope in Central Africa.

the Portuguese could establish populous, powerful and opulent cities in that continent, why may not we effect the same, with the holiest purpose? Heaven frowned on them, it smiles on our design.

To found in Africa an empire of *christians and republicans*; to reconduct the blacks to their native land, without disturbing the order of society, the laws of property, or the rights of individuals; rapidly, but legally, silently, gradually, to drain them off; these are the noble ends of the colonization scheme. The wise and good have been meditating all along on the facility and magnificent benevolence of the project, and have never ceased to cherish a hope in the cause's holiness. Silently and almost unobserved, the foundations of a colony have been laid; and with less assistance than was bestowed upon *this* nation in its infancy, have flourished more and given brighter promise of becoming a powerful and happy people. The colony of Liberia has now arrived at a condition, in which it requires some encouragement. The problem of its possibility and bare existence has been solved. It should now be fostered. To overlook it longer might be fatal. Not the hardiest plants can flourish under perpetual neglect. Help, easily to be afforded, will now enable it to fulfil its destinies.

We may not send exploring expeditions to the centre of the continent, to drag hidden nations to light and instruct them; but we ought to accomplish what is within our power. We may settle and civilize the Western Coast, whence culture and the Gospel may (and will,) by a gradual and surer progress, win their way, from the borders, to the very heart of the continent. Although this may be effected by individual exertions and private charity, yet why subject a scheme so fraught with usefulness to slow advances and precarious support? It should be adopted by the Nation, or by such of the States as approve it.

Our object has been to show, that Liberia is admirably situated for all the purposes in view. The soil is excellently adapted to the most productive crops, the climate is not so serious an obstacle as was supposed, the territory lies well for commerce, and admits of indefinite increase, and the surrounding tribes of nations are weak, peaceable and docile. Thus situated, the Colony will produce numerous good effects. It is a reservoir and asylum for such of our blacks as have it in their power to remove; it may

become the mart of a lucrative trade, and repay us for all its expenses; it will be a foot-hold of christianity and civilization; and within its influence,—the influence of its benign example, of its virtuous commerce, of its power,—the slave-trade must expire, and its perpetrators be taught “to pity others’ woe.”

Latest from Liberia.

MONROVIA, Dec. 5th, 1826.

To the Board of Managers of the American Colonization Society.

GENTLEMEN:

Mr. Gurley’s communication of the 2d September, was received by the schooner ———, Capt. Chadwick, New York, on the 14th of November.—The books also arrived in good order.

The brig Tamworth, Capt. Gridler, Boston, arrived on the 27th November,—51 days from Boston, with part of a cargo laid in for Montserado, which she has sold, and proceeds on her voyage to Pernambuco, and thence back to the United States to-morrow.

The rains, unusually protracted this season, are hardly yet at an end;—but the Colonists were never more healthy at any season. This blessing has never been enjoyed by them more perfectly than since my last dates, by Dr. Peaco, whose arrival in America long before the present time, I trust, has put the Board in possession of very particular intelligence from the Colony up to the middle of August.

Having been absent from Monrovia, on a visit to the Gallinas, until within 48 hours of the sailing of the Tamworth, it is not possible to enter into the particulars of the state of the Colony. I can, however, thro’ the blessing of God on our poor endeavours for its advancement, say, that the ordinary measure of prosperity continues to attend it. Factory Island, and a large district unlimited on one side—of the Grand Bassa country, now belongs to your institution.—The deeds conveying to us this important territory are herewith inclosed.* A large public house has been built for us by the late proprietors of the country, on Factory

* Finding these deeds not yet recorded, in our Register, I do not send them, but will, by the first direct conveyance.

Island, and we expect next week to begin the first settlement there, by establishing two respectable families on the island.

Caldwell is in a very prosperous state.

A new town for re-captured Africans has been founded on the Stockton, two and a half miles below its junction with the St. Paul's. It is not yet named.—This is the third settlement begun on the creek.

The unsettled state of the tribes to the windward, owing to a long and distracting servile war (*bellum seville*) has put it out of my power yet to execute the arrangement mentioned by anticipation, in my last, for which an overture had been offered by some of the chiefs of Cape Mount.—One point, I think, has been certainly gained, which, in the absence of a more intimate connexion of this Colony with those tribes, will make it safe to wait a more favourable season to press them to a sale of any part of their country. To the leeward of the Gallinas river, all the country authorities have come into an express and most solemn engagement, neither to dispose of any part of their territory to any other foreigners, nor to suffer their establishments amongst them. I propose to visit the Rio Pongas previous to my return to the United States, which I hope to be able to do so soon as the month of March or April.

One of the boats of which the frames were brought out by the Indian Chief, has been more than a month completed; in which time, I have visited in her a greater extent of this part of the coast, than from the want of so commodious a conveyance, I had ever before been in a capacity to do. The schooner carries ten tons—has a large cabin—a brass 6 pounder, pivot-mounted—and 12 stands of arms. Having a strong crew on board, she is able to resist most of the small pirates of the coast. Her utility to the Colony promises to be nearly inestimable—by extending our relations, and binding together our establishments along the coast, as well as in the transportation of produce.

There are more than twelve public buildings, including three new fortifications, going forward, of which a particular account may be expected by the next opportunity of writing the Board.

We shall expect a large accession of Colonists as early as the middle of January: when, if no disappointment occurs in our present hopes and labours, we shall be ready to receive them.

Our schools, for want of both instructors and books, are in a languid state: trade increases perhaps too rapidly. But it is hitherto confined chiefly to Monrovia. The people of Caldwell are all farmers. Forty families have title deeds for their lands. Several, by the terms of the original grant, have forfeited their rights. Shall the forfeiture be exacted?

Mr. Hodges, boat builder, from Norfolk, was, at the moment of Dr. Peaco's departure, struggling in the grasp of death. He did not survive the following night. His estate has been settled, and his property and papers will be forwarded by the first direct conveyance to Norfolk. He was an amiable, pious, and estimable young man, whose death is sincerely and universally deplored amongst us.

We still enjoy a state of profound tranquillity, as regards our relations with *all* the tribes of the country. The last season was most abundantly prolific in rice; and never have our settlements been in so favourable a state to admit, I may add, to *require*, a very large addition of settlers, as at the present moment. All this region of Africa opens its bosom for the reception of her returning children. I rejoice in the testimonials furnished in different ways, of a growing and enlightened interest in the objects of your Board among the American people. It is one of those great and benevolent designs on which the Merciful Father of all mankind loves to smile, which the American Colonization Society has undertaken. Its root is deep, and its growth, however gradual, I entirely believe to be sure. But the greatest difficulties—for difficulties the cause has always struggled with, I never supposed to lie on this side of the ocean. To obviate prejudices, and unite the exertions, and rouse the enterprise of the whole American people; this is the great labour, and to such as most successfully engage in, and prosecute it, will be chiefly due the acknowledgments of posterity.

I am happily restored again to myself and the Colony, after a tedious, and for much of the time, a distressing confinement to my chamber for six months.

I must again solicit the Board to send at least 20,000 feet of lumber, chiefly $\frac{3}{4}$ inch boards, by their next transport, which I sincerely pray may arrive as early as the middle of January; and I must again solicit the liberty of returning to the United States early in the next Spring.

Dr. Peaco is, of course, confidently expected back previous to my own departure from the Colony, which will be subjected to the most serious inconveniences, if left six months without an agent—a misfortune which I trust may not happen.

I am, gentlemen, with sincere respect,

Your obedient servant,

J. ASHMUN.

MONROVIA, *December 6th*, 1826.

GENTLEMEN:

Capt. G. having postponed sailing until to-morrow, affords me an opportunity to add, that among the buildings now in progress, is a receptacle for emigrants in the Caldwell settlement, 100 feet long, with a store house additional, of 24 feet in length. It is believed that the St. Paul's will prove a more salutary residence for new emigrants, than the Cape. The physician of the Colony, will, of course, reside in the Government House of the same settlement, while his patients are accomplishing their seasoning.

It also becomes me to mention by this conveyance, that I have obtained the perpetual grant, rent free, of an indefinite tract of country, lying between the two Junk rivers, 35 to 40 miles to the leeward of the Cape: this is a very important acquisition, and the deed shall be forwarded by the first direct conveyance. This district will, eventually, become the property of the Society on very easy terms. Indeed, the entire coast, from the St. Paul's towards the north to Trade town south eastwardly, is in a sense in the actual occupation, and under the jurisdiction of the Colony, (100 miles.) The country people begin, as a customary thing, to honour me with the title of "Headman for all their country," and "Father for we all;" and whenever a proposition is submitted to them, they are in the habit of replying, "you know best what is good for us;" and in case they shall ever be straitened in consequence of yielding to my requests, they are careful to let me know that the Colony will ultimately be obliged to provide them with the means of subsisting themselves.

Capt. Gridler having a small lot of cheap furniture, very much needed for the St. Paul's Government House, and a lot of pro-

visions, I have made a small purchase of both for the Colony—paid two tons of wood, all I could prevail on him to take, and drew on your Treasurer for the balance of 124 dollars, which I trust you will order duly paid.

I have the honour to remain,

Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

J. ASHMUN.

P. S. Please cause to be acknowledged the receipt for the schools, of six boxes of books, of individuals in Boston; for the Library, of 620 volumes, contributed by Dartmouth College.

Do. do. 2 bundles of pamphlets by individuals, of Boston. All of which are received in good order, freight-free, by Messrs. Ropes, Reed & Co's brig Tamworth, Capt. Gridler.

The donation is invaluable, and the school books came at a moment when several departments of instruction were on the point of being given up for want of books.

J. A.

Slave Trade.

We rejoice to perceive that the King of France has published a decree for the effectual suppression of the Slave Trade. This traffic has, of late years, been more extensively prosecuted under the flag of this country, than under that of any other Power.

Decree of the King of France against the Slave Trade.

Charles, by the Grace of God, King of France and Navarre, to all who shall see these presents, greeting:

We have ordained, and do ordain, that the project of a law of the following tenor, shall be presented to our minister, Secretary of State to the Department of Marine and the Colonies; whom we charge to explain its object, and to support it in discussion.

Only Article. In case of co-operation or participation, by any means whatever, in the traffic known under the name of the negro Slave Trade, the proprietors and supercargoes, the insurers who insure it knowingly; the captain or commander and other officers of the vessel, shall be punished with banishment, and a fine equal to the value of the ship and cargo.

The fine shall be pronounced conjointly against the individuals designated in the preceding paragraph.

The captain and other officers shall be further declared incapable of serving under any title in the King's Navy, or the French merchant service.

Other individuals belonging to the crew, shall be punished with imprisonment of from three months to five years. From these are excepted such of the abovementioned individuals as shall, within fifteen days after the vessel's arrival, declare to the commissary of the marine, or the magistrates in the French ports, or the French consuls in foreign ports, the facts which they shall know.

The vessel shall be seized and confiscated. The penalties, under the present law, are independent of those which shall be pronounced in conformity with the penal code, for other crimes or offences which may have been committed on board the ship.

The law of April 15th, 1818, is abrogated.

Given in our palace of the Thuilleries, December 27, 1826, and our reign the 3d.

CHARLES.

By the King.

The Peer of France, Secretary of State of Marine and the Colonies.

COMPTE DE CHABROL.

Horrors of the Slave Trade.

Such horrid occurrences as the one related below, we would gladly conceal from the public view, if we did not believe that crime is emboldened by secrecy, and that facts like these are calculated to arouse the generous feelings of the People to endeavours for their suppression. The only way to abolish the Slave Trade is, by invading its sources with settlements on the coast of Africa. It is, therefore, with reason, apart from Republican and Christian motives, that Liberia enjoys the support of all philanthropists among us.—*Balt. Gaz.*

"The Sierra Leone Gazette of the 9th September, on the authority of a correspondent, mentions a most atrocious act of barbarity, on the part of a French slave captain, named Gilbin. This

fellow had carried off from the Gallinas, about six weeks before, 250 slaves, whom he intended to introduce surreptitiously into Gaudaloupe. He succeeded in landing the whole, except sixty-five, when, having observed a French cutter coming towards the vessel, he threw those sixty-five miserable beings overboard, in order to avoid a discovery of the traffic he had been carrying on! The Governor of Gaudaloupe, it is added, gave orders to seize the murderer, when the crime he had perpetrated was discovered by the dead bodies that were drifted ashore; but he had sailed before the order could be executed."

Virginia Conference.

At a late meeting of the Virginia conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, a resolution was adopted requesting that every preacher in that conference should make a collection on the fourth of July next, in aid of the American Colonization Society. We hope that all the other ecclesiastical bodies will follow an example so worthy of their imitation.

Extract from the Norfolk Herald.

I have seen, with great pleasure, that the Legislature of Kentucky have passed a resolution recommending the object of the American Colonization Society to the patronage of Congress. And nothing, I think, could be more truly honorable to her councils than this proceeding, especially as it shows a triumph of reason over certain prejudices which have heretofore prevailed, I suppose, in that state, as well as in our own. I say prejudices; for really I have always thought that we have no reason whatever to imagine for a moment that there was or could be any thing like a disposition, on the part of our General Government, or of our Northern members more particularly, to meddle with the subject of slavery as it exists in our Southern States, established by our laws, and under the sanction of the Constitution itself. Nor

have I ever been able to see, for my part, why the patronage of Congress to a benevolent and patriotic Society which, without interfering, in the smallest degree, with that *delicate interest*, only aims to remove what we all consider as a great evil—our free people of colour—(and which evil *does* interfere with that interest,) should excite the jealousy or spleen of our most watchful and determined advocates of state rights. Surely if our friends of the North are willing, in a fair and liberal spirit, to unite with us of the South in appropriating a part of the common revenue to this truly catholic object, but by which we are to be particularly benefitted, it is not for us to refuse the aid—unless indeed it were very clear that Congress have no right to legislate upon the subject. But the right and indeed the duty of Congress to afford the Society that reasonable aid which it asks, is probably very fairly within the true scope and spirit of that clause of the constitution which gives them power “to lay and collect taxes, duties and imposts; to provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States.”—And it is at least very certain, that nothing could tend more directly to promote some of the great purposes for which that instrument was framed, as stated in its preamble—for instance—“To form a more perfect union, ensure domestic tranquillity, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves, and our posterity,” in all their fullest extent, than the very scheme which the Society is now pursuing with so much success.

I am not at all anxious however, I confess, to press this point upon any of our conscientious *literals*, (especially as I am by no means an *ultra* myself,) because I have always thought that it was much more clearly and distinctly the right and duty of the state governments, (especially, of course, of our Southern ones,) to promote this great object by liberal appropriations from their treasuries; and I am more particularly desirous to see our own Commonwealth coming out in the cause, in a manner worthy of herself. And here too, by the way, if I thought it necessary, I could point her to the recent and honorable example of another sister state, on the other side of us, I mean Maryland, whose Legislature has lately granted the annual sum of a thousand dollars to aid the funds of the Society. But it cannot be necessary, I am sure, to stimulate her wisdom or her virtue by referring her

to any foreign example whatever. Let her only look back for a bright leaf in her own statute book, and read again her ever memorable resolution upon the subject of colonizing our free people of colour in Africa, or elsewhere beyond the limits of the United States, from which this Society in fact emanated, and she will see at once that path of policy which she was the first to show to others, and which her duty and her honor now alike command her to pursue.

I do not know however, whether it may not be too late to bring this subject before our General Assembly during its present session, which is or ought to be hastening to its close; and especially if the houses should not be ready to act upon it with that perfect unanimity which it is so very desirable to obtain. Let it lie over then, I would say, to the next session, and let the members who may not be already distinctly satisfied, take some pains, in the mean time, to examine the claim of this colonizing scheme to their favor. Let them examine it with that patience and candor which are so obviously due to ourselves, in considering a project in whose success we have so deep an interest—and separating it entirely from all its imaginary connections with questions of party politics with which it has really nothing to do—and I am persuaded that the result will be their hearty support of the plan.

I will just add here, that whenever our Commonwealth does come out to act again upon this subject, I hope that it will not be to make a direct grant to the Society itself; but rather to aid its object, or more properly speaking, to execute the long established policy of her own laws, by an act to encourage the emigration of our free people of colour to the Society's settlement in Liberia, by certain bounties, and other provisions, which I may take occasion to suggest hereafter. In the mean time, I will just observe that this adoption of the scheme by our General Assembly, would have the immediate effect of making its execution entirely safe, as well as absolutely sure; and so most happily, quiet forever all those very unnecessary fears which any persons may have thought themselves authorized to feel about the views and wishes of its friends.

SHARP.

Naimbanna, the African Chief.

The late J. H. Naimbanna, son of the former king of Sierra Leone, when at the supposed age of twenty-four, was induced, by the suggestions of a free black belonging to the first body of settlers from London, to determine on going over to England, with the view of acquiring an education; intending to commit himself to the liberality of an English gentleman, to whom he had heard that the free black had been indebted for some degree of schooling. He was on the point of coming to an agreement with the master of a slave-vessel, who was to receive three slaves as the price of his passage through the West Indies hither, when a ship sent out by the Sierra Leone Company to explore the country, arrived in Sierra Leone river. Having been brought by this vessel to England, he was placed under the care of two clergymen successively, who have furnished the chief part of the information concerning him, which will now be communicated to the Court.

A desire of knowledge was the predominant feature in his character. His instructors have mentioned that he would continually urge them to prolong the time employed in reading together. He was also forward in declaring his obligations to every one who would assist him in the acquisition of useful learning; he would express regret if he had been led into any company where the time had passed away without improvement; and when it happened that he was left entirely to himself, he would employ not less than eight or ten hours of the day in reading. Though the disadvantages arising from the long neglect of his mental faculties were apparent, he shewed signs of very good natural sense; he had also a faculty at distinguishing characters; and his mind, as might naturally be expected, was ready to receive impressions from those persons of whom he had conceived a good opinion. He had few advantages of person, but he was uncommonly pleasing in his behaviour, shewing much natural courtesy and even delicacy of manners; he was also of a kind and affectionate disposition. He was quick in all his feelings, and his temper was occasionally warm, some degree of jealousy also entering into his character: in particular he was indisposed to answer questions put to him by strangers concerning the state of his own country; for he was apt to suspect that they meant to draw comparisons between England and Sierra Leone, unfavourable to the character of the latter, and

he would therefore, on such occasions, often turn the conversation, by remarking, that a country so unfavourably circumstanced as Sierra Leone had hitherto been, was not to be supposed capable of having made any attainments worthy of being the subject of conversation in Great Britain.

The following anecdote will shew still more strongly the extreme sensibility which he felt, when any circumstance arose which touched the honour of his country; and it will also explain the grounds of his peculiar jealousy on this subject.

The name of a person having been mentioned in his presence, who was understood by him to have publicly asserted something very degrading to the general character of the Africans, he broke out into some violent and vindictive language against this person. He was immediately reminded of the christian duty of forgiving his enemies, upon which he answered nearly in the following words: "If a man, said he, should rob me of my money, I can forgive him; if a man should shoot at me, or try to stab me, I can forgive him; if a man should sell me and all my family to a slave-ship, so that we should pass all the rest of our days in slavery in the West Indies, I can forgive him; but (added he, rising from his seat with much emotion) if a man takes away the character of the people of my country, I never can forgive him." Being asked why he would not extend his forgiveness to those who took away the character of his country, he answered, "If a man should try to kill me, or should sell me and my family for slaves, he would do an injury to as many as he might kill or sell; but if any one takes away the character of black people, that man injures black people all over the world; and when he has once taken away their character, there is nothing which he may not do to black people ever after. That man, for instance, will beat black men, and say, O, it is only a black man, why should not I beat him? That man will make slaves of black people; for when he has taken away their character, he will say, O they are only black people, why should not I make them slaves? That man will take away all the people of Africa, if he can catch them; and if you ask him, but why do you take away all these people, he will say, O, they are only black people, they are not like white people, why should not I take them? That is the reason why I cannot forgive the man who takes away the character of the people of my country."

Report of the Sierra Leone Company.

The Past and Future.

We are now brought to the conclusion of our second volume. A recurrence to past events, particularly to those of the last year, awakens devout gratitude, nor can the future be contemplated, without invigorated resolution, loftier aims, and hopes of brighter promise.

The practicableness and utility of the scheme in which this Society embarked, ten years ago, with few friends, scanty means, and in view of obstacles both numerous and appalling, is no longer problematical. The experiment proposed by the Society, has been fairly tried and with entire and unexampled success. The Colony of Liberia appears to be established on sure foundations, and to exhibit both in its internal affairs and external relations, a degree of prosperity far exceeding the expectations of its earliest friends. It is a christian community on a pagan shore, exerting a benign and extensive influence upon numerous heathen tribes, and offering to countless barbarians instruction in the pure principles of the religion of Christ. Nor is the knowledge thus imparted merely theoretical. The poor natives see christianity embodied in the lives of its professors, and feel that it is an active practical principle, essentially conducing to the happiness of the individual, and to all the interests of society. In all their intercourse with the Colony, they find this religion a principle of veracity, integrity and kindness, constituting a sure ground for reliance, and creating within their bosoms gratitude, confidence and affection.

The settlement at Liberia has remarkably enjoyed the protection and favour of the Almighty. In times of danger, of trial, and of want, its members have found refuge and resources in God. Their afflictions have served to deepen their pious sentiments, and to direct their thoughts more constantly to the realities and glories of an immortal state. Awakened in such seasons to a conviction of their entire dependence upon the invisible and eternal Being, they have, under the chastisements of his hand, learnt righteousness.

It must be manifest to the friends of this Institution, that to sustain its enlarged operations the present year, funds will be required far exceeding the amount of annual donations in preceding years. By nothing are the Managers more encouraged in the pro-

secution of their great enterprise, than by the evidently increasing interest felt throughout the country in its success. The cause itself makes an appeal, not easily to be resisted, to the humane, the patriotic and the religious. Thousands the year past have felt this appeal, and shown, by well directed and productive efforts, that their natures must be changed, before they can regard with indifference the claims of such a cause.

The Managers are convinced, that the work in which they are engaged, is not only sanctioned by humanity and benevolence, but of great national interest and importance, and they trust the time is not remote, when it will receive the approbation and aid of the whole American people; when the State Legislatures and Congress will harmoniously unite their energies for its accomplishment, and thus rear an imperishable monument to the magnanimity and charity of our glorious Republic. To secure an object so imperiously demanded by every consideration of duty and interest, they invoke the aid of the press, the ministry, Auxiliary Associations, and in fine, of all who are sensible to the misery of others, or concerned for the welfare and the honour of their country. For the present year, they must rely upon the charity of their friends. But while they trust that the contributions of the liberal and religious will be such as to enable them to conduct forward the arduous work to which their efforts are devoted, they confidently hope, that every thing possible will be done to secure to it the assistance of those powers of the government which alone are adequate to its consummation. Particularly would the Managers invite the attention of the Rev. Clergy to this cause. Could every minister of every denomination be induced to bring the design of this Society before his congregation on the Sabbath immediately preceding or succeeding the fourth of July, and solicit a contribution in its behalf, the benefit would prove incalculable. Africa would rejoice, and Heaven smile upon a nation making such a united and noble offering of its charities.

